

**SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PERMITTING
OPEN ACCESS TO DATA OBJECTS AND
FOR SECURING DATA WITHIN THE DATA OBJECTS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and methods for permitting open access to data objects and
for securing data within the data objects is disclosed.. According to one
embodiment of the present invention, a method for securing a data object is
disclosed. According to one embodiment of the present invention, a method for
securing a data object is disclosed. The method includes the steps of (1) providing a
10 data object comprising digital data and file format information; (2) embedding
independent data into a data object; and (3) scrambling the data object to degrade the
data object to a predetermined signal quality level. The steps of embedding and
scrambling may be performed until a predetermined condition is met. The method
may also include the steps of descrambling the data object to upgrade the data object
15 to a predetermined signal quality level, and decoding the embedded independent
data. The additional steps of descrambling and decoding may be performed until a
predetermined condition is met. The predetermined condition may include, for
example, reaching a desired signal quality of the data object.

09731039 120788